

Subject: Abyssinian coins -- translation  
of inscriptions on

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1913-1934

January 13, 1910.

Prof. Charles C. Torrey

Dept. Semitic Languages,

Yale University,

New Haven, Conn.

Dear Prof. Torrey:-

I beg to thank you for the trouble you have taken in reading those Abyssinian coins. The reading that you give is as I first read it, but two other people insisted the second word was which I could not understand why it should be on a coin.

I am very glad to know that you consider the word Aldh'if. The other word certainly was a puzzle to me. It is certainly peculiar. I think without a doubt, this is the right word however.

Again let me thank you for your trouble and courtesy.

Very truly yours,



19th June, 1928

Professor Charles C. Torrey,  
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Professor Torrey:

Mr. Newell showed me the impressions of the two gold coins you had here the other day. The one with the ornate border was clearly issued by Seyyid Mohammed of Khiva. The other one puzzles me as it has little on it except the Mohammedan formula. I can make out the word 'Bokhara' on the bottom line on one side. Presumably the key word, which is the bottom line on the other side, can not be made out. From the general style, I should say the piece was struck in the 11th or 12th Century of our Era.

I am very sorry I was not in when you were up here.

Very truly yours,

Curator

June 23, 1928.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you very much for your letter about the coins. I am sorry that I missed seeing you when I was in New York, and I hope to have better luck another time.

For the coin inscribed "Mohammed Bahadur Khan" &c. I had made two conjectures, neither of which quite satisfied me. One of the two was Seyjid M. of Khiva (which you decide upon), the other I have forgotten, for I locked up my papers, with the coins, in the Yale Library on my return from New York, and haven't yet had time to look at them again. I have no doubt that you are right.

I read the "Bokhara" on the other, but could get no further. I am very glad of your suggestion as to the probable date. Perhaps the means of placing it exactly will turn up.

Very sincerely yours,  
Charles C. Torrey.



April 26, 1934.

Prof. Charles C. Torrey  
Yale University  
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Prof. Torrey:

The other day Mr. Newell told me that he had mentioned to you a new dinar of the year 105 A. H. that we had, with the inscription continued on the religious legend "Mine of the Commander of the Faithful in the Hedjaz". I am enclosing a plaster reproduction of this. The only references I can find concerning it are three by P. Casanova. He first mentioned it in the Inventaire Sommaire de la Collection des Monnaies Musulmanes De S. A. la Princesse Ismail published in 1896, page iv. As you may not have this I am enclosing a copy.

Casanova in 1921 published in the Bulletin de la Section de Geographie du Comite des travaux historiques et scientifiques, Une mine d'or au Hidjaz, evidently a long account of it. Unfortunately we do not have this. However, in the Revue Numismatique for 1922, p. 97, E. Babelon reviewed briefly the article. A transcript of this I am enclosing.

Very truly yours,

HW:JC

Curator



April 29, 1934.

Dear Mr. Wood:

It was a very kind act on your part to send me a cast of this astonishing coin, and a transcript of the references to it. I have not yet learned whether we have in the Yale Library <sup>a copy</sup> of the Bulletin which contains Casanova's article published in 1921, but I shall look for it at the first opportunity.

I had never before heard of this coin, nor, of course, of a mine in the Hijāz(!); so I was quite startled when Newell told me about it. I hope to see the original in your Collection, some day.

The arrangement of the inscription is indeed peculiar, but not unnatural; the designation of the mine could hardly have been brought in anywhere else, or in any other way. Yāqūt says that Suwāriqiyya belongs to the Nejd; but that is no obstacle to Casanova's identification, for the boundary was quite uncertain, and "Harra" includes a large territory. Yāqūt mentions a mine of malachite, or jasper, dahnaj, in the Harra of the Banī Sulaim.

With renewed thanks,

Sincerely yours,  
Charles C. Torrey.